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Duty of Every Man, "

Drawer 6A

SERIOUS QUESTIONS

7/1 2009 DEC 84992



# Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings Spurious “Duty of Every Man...”

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.04992

3. S. Thanks for your note - enjoyed it very much. Liked the clipping!

Feb. 1, 1932

Dear Dr. MacHarg:

I don't suppose you expected to hear from me again so soon, and I didn't expect you would either. This time I have a favor to ask of you, as I need some help. Here is the situation. We get out new safety posters about every month. This month there is one of your friend, Abraham Lincoln. Below his picture there is a quotation which I will give you later. This quotation has been questioned several times as to its authenticity. Consequently, I have been asked to try and locate the speech where it is thought to have been said. I have searched the public library literally from top to bottom, have gone through their card file of Lincoln books containing his speeches, and have found nothing. I got out the notes on Lincoln bibliography that I took in your course, and got a copy of Beveridge, which I had down as good up to the period 1858. I found a reference to the speech, the footnote of which told me to see an issue of the Illinois State Journal. I called the Chicago Historical Society, and they had the issue, but it only mentioned that he spoke. I have even tried the Newberry Library, famed for its historical material, but without success. I am now turning to you. I hate to bother you, as I know you must be busy so near the end of the semester, etc. However, I would greatly appreciate any help you can give me. The speech was given at Princeton, Ill. on July 4, 1856. The quotation I will put below. If you have a copy of the speech and can tell me if it was said, or send me a copy I would be very grateful. Of course, it is possible that the quotation won't be in the speech, but would like to know even that much. Thanking you for anything you can do to help me as soon as possible, and for your trouble, I remain

Most sincerely,

*Betty Wheeler*

It is the duty of every man to protect himself and those associated with him from accidents, which may result in injury or death."

B.S. Thanks for your note - enjoyed it very much. Had you liked the clipping?





It is the duty of every man to protect himself and those associated with him from accidents which may result in injury or death

*Abraham Lincoln*



National Safety Council, Inc., Chicago  
Printed in U.S.A.

4360





2 Feb. 1932

Dear Betty Webber :

I cannot solve your problem for you directly but maybe I can help you to a solution. If you find what you're seeking, please let me know.

There is a good chance that some Lincoln scholar may just happen to know that quotation and can help you directly to it. Someone of those to whom I direct you may have the information. If not, I should write for quick results to the Librarian of the Library at Princeton. They should have the speech there or know just where it is to be found. Most Ill. towns are active in regard to local Lincolniana.

we simply have not the books here so that I cannot attempt to find the passage. I have several sets of works and writings but none gives the Princeton speech. That you should read first of all. If it exists the Bibliographies of Fish or Oakleaf which you can get in Chicago at the libraries should enable you to find it.

Just as a guess, I'd say you would be more likely to find such a sentence in one of his non-political speeches, such as that on Discoveries and Inventions or that at the Milwaukee Fair, Sept. 30 '59 ( not autumn of '60 as Sanburg leads you to believe, vol. 2, 244) Sandburg's Index is helpful sometimes , see "speeches" under Lincoln, in the one vol. ed. p. 461. You should not have great difficulty in finding that Princeton speech in the libraries of Chicago if it exists in print. Someone may have recollected that sentence and given it in some magazine article. Poole's Index and the Readers Guide might help you to an article on the Princeton speech."

Paul M. Angle , Springfield, Ill., is the best man in the country to do the job for you. He has all the literature at his disposal and is well read in it. If he has time and will, he can solve the problem for you if anyone can.

Miss Georgia Osborne of the State Hist. Soc. , Springfield, Ill. has the material helps and good knowledge. She might do it.

J.L.Oakleaf, Moline, Ill. has practically complete Lincolniana which he wishes to sell for \$100000. He is busy man of large means, but might help.

Hon. George P. Hambrecht, Madison, Wis. has, I think, the best private collection in this state, is a L. enthusiast and might help, but he is a busy man.

A.H.Griffith, Fisk, Wis. is , I think, the most interesting L. collector in the U.S. and uncanny in what he gets and does. In fact, he is a poor farmer, ill, and unable apparently to do what he does. He has helped nearly every L. author generously and may help you.

Lewis A. Warren, FortWayne, Ind. has both the materials and knowledge to help and might be interested to do.

This is a busy world as you know. It does take precious time to work over these things but you will find all L. workers willing, I think. I suggest that you make it easy. Write any or all of these people, without mentioning me, please, and state you case as urgently and well as you can. Enclose in a stamped and addressed envelope something like this :

Can you tell me where this quotation is found in the writings or speeches of L. ?

".....Quotation....."

It may be in the Princeton speech of July 4, 1856 . Can you tell me just where I can find that speech reported ?

L. enthusiasts have many calls upon their time and I hope you will understand why I suggest you do this. If the person is a stranger to whom you write, he is more likely to help if you make it very easy and obligate him just a little by the envelope.

I think Ida M. Tarbell would be more likely to know just where that quotation is than anyone else, but I haven't the heart to suggest your writing her. She is such a worker and O so busy !

And believe me, I am too, but I am only too glad to help and wish I could do more.

Cordially yours



1871